IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IAP12 Rec'd PCT/PT0 18 MAY 2006

In re Yasushi HIGUCHI et al.

New 371 Patent Application

Filed: Herewith, May 18, 2006 Attorney Docket No.: 7378/88140

Confirmation No. Not Yet Assigned Customer No.: 42798

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING OPTICALLY ACTIVE 2-ALKYLCYSTEINE, For:

DERIVATIVE THEREOF, AND PROCESSES FOR PRODUCTION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP PCT **Commissioner for Patents Customer Service Window** Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment before examination.

Amendments to the specification begin at page 2.

Amendments to the claims begin at page 3.

Remarks begin on page 10.